

HOUSE No. 2869

By Mr. Koutoujian of Waltham, petition of Peter J. Koutoujian and others relative to waiting lists for services of the Department of Mental Retardation, Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Peter J. Koutoujian	Mary E. Grant
Scott P. Brown	James R. Miceli
Ruth B. Balser	Pamela P. Resor
John W. Scibak	Karen E. Spilka
Susan C. Fargo	Gloria L. Fox
Kathleen M. Teahan	

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO ADDRESS THE WAITING LIST AT THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 An Act to amend Chapter 19B, as appearing in the 1998 Offi-
2 cial Edition, is hereby amended after Section 23 the following
3 new section:—

4 The Department of Mental Retardation will develop a five year
5 plan to address all individuals waiting for community based serv-
6 ices including residential, day, transportation and family support.

7 The goal of said plan will be to fund services for all eligible indi-
8 viduals and families by 2003.

9 1. To address such plan the Department of Mental Retardation
10 will:

11 a: Require each area office to provide an updated list of names
12 in priority order with corresponding cost plan with additional dol-
13 lars required.

14 b. Identify service type needed for each eligible participant.

15 c. Identify a number of people to serve per year in order to
16 achieve the goal of said legislation by 2003.

17 d. Said plan will include emergency allocations for those individuals not currently on the Department of Mental Retardation's current list but go into crisis. Said emergency allocation will be based on historical data.

21 e. Said plan will include annual allocations for family support funding for those not immediately served on the residential waiting lists.

24 2. In year one and thereafter, until no one is waiting for residential services, 300 people on said waiting list for residential services will receive \$10,000 in vouchers or allocations in additional dollars on an annual basis to provide support while said individuals are waiting for services. DMR will utilize said waiting list for services to determine distribution. Individuals or families may utilize the funds for private-public partnerships and may choose to remove themselves from the residential waiting list.

32 3. To minimize crisis driven services, the DMR will include allocations or vouchers on an annual basis for families who are in need of family support. These allocations will range from \$3,000 to \$10,000 per year based on range of services required.

36 4. To encourage public private partnership in the employment of individuals with disabilities, incentives will be established for employers:

39 a. A tax credit equal to 20% of any hired individuals' wages for the first two years of employment will be granted.

41 b. Six month subsidies to assist in job-coaching will be distributed on a case by case basis not to exceed \$6,000. These monies will be allocated from a subsidy line item funded by a one-time two million dollar allocation.

45 5. To maximize community based care, the Department of Mental Retardation will update the Facilities Consolidation plan to redirect resources, as more individuals leave institutional care and enter community-based homes. The plan should include a projected schedule of facility closures. Any savings from said plan once the needs of individuals moving from facilities have been addressed may be used to offset additional monies required in this law.

53 6. To maximize revenue, the Department of Mental Retardation
54 will develop a plan which maximizes funding received through
55 the Home and Community Based Waiver; this plan will include
56 retained revenue as one option to address the waiting list.